GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5842
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
SCHEME FOR IMPROVEMENT IN COAL SECTOR
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme for making improvement/reorganization in the coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent by the Government on the said scheme;

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to invite private sector for commercial mining under 14 Point Programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee has been constituted to draw up a road map for coal sector.

(c) & (d) The Expert Committee has not submitted its recommendations as yet.

(e) & (f) In order to increase coal production in the country and to attract private investment in coal mining sector, the Central Government proposed to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Accordingly, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill 2000 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in April, 2000 with the following objectives; inter alia :

i) to allow Indian companies i.e. companies registered in India to mine coal and lignite without the existing restriction of captive consumption; and

ii) to engage in exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country. The Bill has been recommended by the Standing Committee on Energy for adoption.